

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY ROME

UNCLAS STATE 044847

FOLLOWING BEIRUT 1398 SENT ACTION SECSTATE FEB 13; REPEATED
TO YOU QUOTE

UNCLAS BEIRUT 1398

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAID, LE

SUBJECT: WORLD FOOD PROGRAM EMERGENCY PROGRAMS

REF: (A) BEIRUT 14978 (?) BEIRUT 14806 (C) BEIRUT 1387

1. WFP REP MIDANI, ACCOMPANIED BY HIS ASSISTANT KAMEL TAKI,
WAS FINALLY ABLE TO MAKE VISIT TO EMBASSY WHICH WAS ORIGINALLY
SCHEDULED FOR EARLY DECEMBER. IN INTERVENING PERIOD MIDANI
HAS SPENT TIME IN SYRIA AND WAS IN ROME AND UNABLE RETURN TO
BEIRUT DURING WORST OF FIGHTING.

2. MIDANI CONFIRMED THAT WFP IS MOVING AHEAD WITH THE FIRST
PHASE OF THE EMERGENCY PROGRAM, THAT A SHIP IS IN BEIRUT PORT
WITH CHEESE FROM DENMARK, AND THAT DISTRIBUTION WILL BEGIN AS
SOON AS AT LEAST THREE COMMODITIES ARE ON HAND. FUNDING AND
COMMODITY CONTENT FOR THIS FIRST THREE MONTH PHASE REMAIN
BASICALLY AS REPORTED PARA SIX OF REF A ALTHOUGH MIDANI USED THE
SLIGHTLY HIGHER FIGURE OF DOLS 3.4 MILLION.

3. RECENT WFP DECISION TO RAISE TOTAL FUNDING OF PROGRAM TO DOLS
10 MILLION IS AIMED AT TARGET FIGURE OF 350,000 PEOPLE. COMMO-
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DITIES WILL INCLUDE 20,600 MT CHEESE FROM DENMARK, 1,728 MT

OF DRY MILK AND 1,152 MT EDIBLE OIL FROM COMMON MARKET AND 576 MT MEAT FROM CANADA.

4. DISTRIBUTION WILL BE THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE MINISTERIAL COMMITTEE UNDER MINISTER OSSEIRAN WHICH EMBASSY HAS MENTIONED IN NUMBER OF PREVIOUS CABLES ON ICRC AND UNHCR ACTIVITIES. THE ARMY IS TO HELP WITH UNLOADING, TRANSPORTING AND PROTECTING ARRIVING CARGOS. WAREHOUSE SPACE AT AIRPORT HAS BEEN RENTED FROM KUWAIT AIRWAYS.

5. ONE NEW THING WHICH MIDANI MENTIONED WAS THE BRINGING TO LEBANON, AS SOON AS SECURITY PERMITS, OF A TEAM OF UN TECHNICAL EXPERTS FROM SEVERAL UN AGENCIES TO LOOK FOR SUITABLE PROJECTS FOR WFP TO UNDERTAKE. MIDANI SAID THE REGULAR WFP PROJECTS IN LEBANON WERE CURRENTLY SUSPENDED, BUT HE INDICATED THE EMERGENCY PROGRAM WAS FLEXIBLE ENOUGH TO ALLOW IT TO BE CONVERTED FROM STRAIGHT GRANT TO FOOD-FOR-WORK AT SAME TIME IN THE FUTURE.

6. WITH BEIRUT PORT SLOWLY OPENING, WFP HAS ABANDONED IDEA OF BRINGING COMMODITIES IN THROUGH SYRIA. HE ADMITTED WFP WOULD HAVE TYPE OF PROBLEM WITH THIS ROUTING WHICH EMBASSY SUGGESTED IN PARA FIVE REFTEL B. LAMBRAKIS UNQUOTE KISSINGER

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